

West Lafayette Fire Department September 2010

Open Houses Preparations have been made for Saturday October 9th when West Lafayette Firefighters will be hosting open houses at each of the three fire stations from 9:00 AM to Noon. This event coincides with Fire Prevention Week. Firefighters will be available to answer questions about smoke alarms, disaster preparation, E.D.I.T.H. or provide other information that would be useful in, or for preventing, an emergency. Station tours will be given throughout the morning and the fire trucks (if not on a call) will be on display for kids of any age.

The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week is, "BEEP! BEEP! Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with". Smoke alarms should be installed in each bedroom as well as outside of each sleeping area. There should be at least one in basements and at least one on each level of a house. They should be tested on a regular basis, the battery should be changed annually, and if the detector is more than ten years old it should be replaced.

Labor Day Weekend Firefighters and the fire trucks were at several Labor Day weekend neighborhood events. The weather cooperated and the Department received several thanks. Excerpts from two written thanks follow:

"The fire engine at our ... annual picnic was a great success! One fireman showed the children all the bells and whistles and the other explained them to the adults. It was very well done. Thank you"

"Thank you for taking the time to help us at our barbecue. We appreciate your efforts in the community and for always being so close in our time of needs. We appreciate all you do for West Lafayette. And a special thanks for taking care of one of our sick ladies."

Also throughout Labor Day weekend, the Department participated in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association "fill the boot" campaign. \$6,100 was collected this year. It is always refreshing when people drop in their change or a \$5 bill or a \$10 or a \$20 or sometimes more. Most of the time the donation is with a smile and a kind word. Occasionally there are complaints but they are outnumbered 10 to 1 by those who express appreciation for a quick and simple opportunity to help those with special needs.

Retirement and Anniversaries There was one firefighter who retired this month and two who have passed their 20 year career milestones and are anticipating several more good years with the Department.

Lieutenant Don Callahan retired with 25 years of service.

Sergeant Tim Heath completed 20 years of service in February of this year.

Sergeant Dannie Neal completed 20 years of service in August of this year.

Chief Drew